BIHAR

Administration: The Bihar State Archives continued to be under the administrative control of the Cabinet Secretariat and Co-ordination Department and functioned as an attached office.

For the first time, the development of Archives has been included as a plan item in the Fifth Five Year Plan, 1974-79. Introduction of modern records management, their appraisal, scientific preservation, microfilming and photoduplication facilities, repair and rehabilitation are the chief objects of the development scheme.

A proposal for creation of 4 gazetted and 10 non-gazetted posts for effective functioning and Co-ordination of all aspects of archival work was submitted to the Government of which seven non-gazetted posts have been sanctioned so far and appointments have been made on the sanctioned posts.

The State Government has also taken over Darbhanga Raj Archives, which will be known as Maharajadhiraj Rameshwer Singh Archives and work as a regional repository of the State Archives.

Budget: During the period under review a sum of Rs.2,30,983.00 was spent on the non-plan side out of the budget provision of Rs.2,66,000.00 On the plan side, a sum of Rs.99,975-00 was spent out of the budget provision of Rs.1,000,00-00. For 1977-78 a Budget provision of Rs.2,94,000.00 is made on the non-plan side and on the plan side a provision of Rs.1,50,000-00 is made.

Out of this allocation Rs.1,000,00.00 has been earmarked for continuing plan schemes and of development of Darbhanga Archives which would be hence treated as non-plan expenditure. And Rs.50,000.00 is earmarked for tribal sub-plan for opening of an Archives Centre in Chota-nagpur (Ranchi).

Building: The State Archives has no separate building of its own.

Record Management: During the period under review records of Political (Special) Department (now called Home Department) were appraised. Approximately four percent of records were marked for retention. At present the guide lines laid down in the Bihar Records Manual are kept in sight while appraising the records.

Research and Reference: 32 Scholars availed themselves of themselves of the research facilities. A team of officers from the National Archives, New Delhi, working on the project 'Towards Freedom' came here in November, 1976 and prepared an exhaustive list of documents relevant to their subject. 35 queries on records received from private agencies/individuals were attended to and 317 records were requisitioned by Government Agencies and 1932 by Research Scholars.

Reference Media: The preparation of a press list of files of the Home/Department (previously called political special) is in progress.

Publication Programme: The State Archives has taken up the project for printing of "Who's Who of freedom fighters volume I".

Preservation of Records: During the period under review 1146 records were flattened, 899 records were repaired, 3356 pages were guarded and pasted while 676 volumes and files were bound.

Photo-Duplication: The Department has its own Microfilming Unit and during the period under review 1,124 pages were Xeroxed.

Library: 570 books were acquired.

Other Activities: The Director along with an Archivist visited the Sitaram Ashram, Bihta (Patna) which houses all the original records of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, the great Kisan leader.

Archival records were displayed in exhibitions of the Indian History Congress held at Calicut in December, 1976 and of the Indian Historical Records Commission Session held at Mysore, in February, 1977.